

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1.       1.       A fixing apparatus, comprising:  
2               a fixing roller, having a middle portion and both end portions in an  
3       axis direction thereof, the middle portion being smaller than the both end  
4       portions in a diameter;  
5               a pressing roller, rotated by being brought into press contact with the  
6       fixing roller so that a press contact portion is formed;  
7               an exfoliating member, exfoliating a sheet-like record medium from a  
8       surface of the fixing roller after the record medium is passed through the press  
9       contact portion; and  
10              restricting members, provided at both end portions of the exfoliating  
11      member, and brought into contact with the surface of the fixing roller so that an  
12      interval between the surface of the fixing roller and the exfoliating member is  
13      restricted,  
14              wherein the restricting members are brought into contact with first  
15      portions of the fixing roller other than second portions of the fixing roller in  
16      which end edge portions of the pressing roller are brought into contact with the  
17      fixing roller.

1       2.       The fixing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein an outer side  
2       portion of each of the restricting members is arranged on an outer side of each  
3       of both end edge portions of the fixing roller.

1       3.       The fixing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein a middle portion

2 of each of the restricting members in an axis direction thereof is brought into  
3 contact with each of both end edge portions of the fixing roller.

1 4. A fixing apparatus, comprising:

2 a fixing roller, having a middle portion and both end portions in an  
3 axis direction thereof, the middle portion being smaller than the both end  
4 portions in a diameter;

5 a pressing roller, rotated by being brought into press contact with the  
6 fixing roller so that a press contact portion is formed;

7 an exfoliating member, exfoliating a sheet-like record medium from a  
8 surface of the fixing roller after the record medium is passed through the press  
9 contact portion; and

10 restricting members, provided at both end portions of the exfoliating  
11 member, and brought into contact with the surface of the fixing roller so that an  
12 interval between the surface of the fixing roller and the exfoliating member is  
13 restricted,

14 wherein an outer side portion of each of the restricting members is  
15 arranged on an outer side of each of both end edge portions of the fixing roller.

1

1 5. A fixing apparatus, comprising:

2 a fixing member, driven so as to rotate;

3 a pressing roller, rotated by being brought into press contact with the  
4 fixing roller so that a press contact portion is formed; and

5 an exfoliating member, exfoliating a sheet-like record medium from at  
6 least one of a surface of the fixing roller and a surface of the pressing roller

7 after the record medium is passed through the press contact portion, and  
8 guiding the recording medium,  
9 wherein the exfoliating member is provided on an upper side of an  
10 outlet of the press contact portion or a downstream side of an air flow from the  
11 outlet of the press contact portion; and  
12 wherein the exfoliating member is provided with a roller rotated in a  
13 direction of moving the record medium.

1 6. The fixing apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the roller is  
2 shaped in either an abacus bead or a star wheel.

1 7. The fixing apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the roller is  
2 comprised of a synthetic resin.

1 8. The fixing apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein a surface of the  
2 roller has a water repellency.